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determine scientifically the existing relations between family incomes and the cost of living. However, impossible as it is to accept Dr. Nearing's reasoning, it is necessary to grant his main contention, that an extremely large proportion of American families are unable to live on a reasonably satisfactory plane. The book possesses the additional value of serving to popularize the results of some of the most recent careful budgetary investigation.

FRANK H. STREIGHTOFF.

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*Statistics.* By ROBERT GIFFIN. Edited by HENRY HIGGS and GEORGE UDNY YULE. (London: Macmillan and Co., Limited. 1913. Pp. vii, 485. \$3.00.)

This book, written during the years immediately following the author's retirement from public service in 1897, and edited and published posthumously, considers neither the nature, history nor the methodology of statistics. For that reason it cannot be considered a handbook on statistics, although so planned by the author. The privilege of old age to write intermittently, leisurely, and with disregard of preconceived plan destined this work to become rather the systematic observations on the statistics of various phases of social life of a man grown wise in matters of statistics. The data used for illustration are few and obsolete for present-day readers, but the wisdom directing the observations concerning the data can never become obsolete. The reviewer agrees with the editors that this volume, "when it has ceased to be reckoned among the Literature of Knowledge will still remain among the Literature of Power."

The volume considers, according to a plan more or less precisely followed in the respective chapters, the statistics of the following phases of social life: area and population; births, deaths, marriages, emigration and immigration; imports, exports, and shipping; agriculture; mining; fishing; manufacturing; railroads; other public service businesses; finance; money markets; prices and wages; wealth; justice; pauperism; education; accidents and insurance. The final chapter discusses methods of constructing tables, while the introductory chapter presents the author's plan of analysis of the statistics of each subject considered.

This plan, not closely followed, is to make the following enquiries concerning each subject: the objects for which statistics of the subject are intended; description of data and how obtained;

methods of compilation and attendant dangers; principal facts established and resultant controversies and questions.

H. S. PERSON.

*Amos Tuck School.*

*Variabilità e Mutabilità.* By CORRADO GINI. (Bologna: P. Cuppini. 1912. Pp. 156.)

*Die statistische Methode als selbständige Wissenschaft.* By HUGO FORCHER. (Leipzig: Verlag von Veit & Comp. 1913. Pp. vi, 365. 10 M.)

Gini's monograph carries the subtitle, *Contributo allo studio delle distribuzioni e delle relazioni statistiche*; and is designated as Fascicolo 1° containing *Introduzione* (15 pp.), *Indici di variabilità* (94 pp.), *Indici di mutabilità* (40 pp.). It is understood that Fascicolo 2° containing *Indici di relazione* is in preparation. As these titles indicate, the work deals not with means of certain observations, but with their mean dispersion. There are a large number of formulas which develop the theory of various means applicable to estimating the dispersion; the only mathematics needed is, however, algebra. The author gives illustrations of his work to a number of social phenomena. This increases the interest and diminishes the difficulty of the monograph. The fundamental division between variability and mutability corresponds to the difference between quantitative and qualitative phenomena. In the former, the observations themselves, being numerical, furnish differences which may be averaged; in the latter, it is necessary to arrange the observations in successive classes, each qualitatively homogeneous, and to number the classes consecutively, thus obtaining an artificial quantitative display. In addition to the applications which the author gives he cites others which have already appeared.

Forcher's book is a systematic treatise on elementary statistical theory. The start is made with pure mathematics—geometrical representation, differentiation, integration (52 pp.). The work is too condensed to give to an elementary student, even if mature, except as a review. The author next develops in detail, and in much the ordinary way, the theory of probability and the theory of errors (112 pp.). The third part (136 pp.) deals with statistical method chiefly in cases where the events or observations are so numerous and regular that the methods of the calculus (continuous distribution) are applicable. For the most part the illustra-